

RTC SAFETY NEWS LETTER



Aug

2004

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

CHEMICAL SAFETY GOGGLES

At first glance, wearing eye safety goggles can seem like a nuisance, especially for those every day tasks. However, you only get one pair of eyes, and it only takes one mishap to possibly lose your sight. Eye safety demands wearing proper eye PPE.

There is a difference between Impact Safety Goggles and Chemical Safety Goggles. To review, impact safety goggles will provide protection only against particulate matter projectiles (when cutting grass/using string trimmers, cutting wood, grinding operations) and do not provide adequate protection for chemical splash. Chemical safety goggles will provide protection against a chemical splash, mist and spills (when transferring chemical liquids, using corrosive substances, or when recommended by the material safety data sheet for the specific product in use).

Chemical safety goggles are equipped with shielded indirect vent (or no vents) in the goggles and must be imprinted with a "Z87" notation. The goggles should form a seal against the facial skin. The goggles can be worn over most personal glasses. Goggles with perforated sides (the types with holes on the side) **are not** approved as chemical splash goggles and must not be used for this purpose.

Naval Station tasks demanding that workers wear eye protection (Chemical Safety goggles) for **chemical splashes** are as follows:

BLDG #	GENERAL LOCATION	Task
2	1st deck	Cleaning parts with chemicals
5	Throughout (Fork lifts)	Battery maintenance
130	Weapons cleaning area	Weapons, cleaning

180	Pin setting machine area	Cleaning pin setting machine
220	Dry Cleaning area	Dry cleaning
220	Spotting board	Prespot, brush
220	Throughout (Fork lifts)	Battery maintenance
220	Wash deck	Changing container hose configuration
220	Wash deck	Filter change
220	Wash deck	Sludge removal /Still cleaning
440	Pool	Cleaning pool (spot cleaning)
912	Dry Cleaning area	Dry cleaning
912	Wash deck	Filter change
912	Wash deck	Sludge removal /Still cleaning
929	Grounds	Hazardous waste handling
929	Throughout (Fork lifts)	Battery maintenance
933	1st and 3rd decks	Silk-screening w/ chemicals
1312	Photo lab	Mixing photochemical for processor
2110	Auto Skill Center	Brake cleaning
3311	Grounds	Applying pesticide
3452	Throughout (Fork lifts)	Battery maintenance
3503	Throughout (Fork lifts)	Battery maintenance
7315	Weapons cleaning area	Weapons, cleaning
3212B	Throughout (Fork lifts)	Battery maintenance
4A	MK11 (40mm) gun trailer/cart	Preventative maintenance
4A	Weapons cleaning area	Weapons, cleaning

Some people just don't like to wear safety goggles. One of the complaints and limitations is that goggles tend to fog up. Fogging happens when sweat vaporizes and coats the inside of the lens. If you have this problem with goggles, wear a handkerchief or sweatband around your forehead to keep perspiration out. Another complaint is that eye protection devices are uncomfortable, but usually this is because the eye protection device does not fit properly. Adjust the goggles by loosening/tightening the strap for the correct fit.

Your goggles should last you a long time with proper care. Protective eyewear is not unbreakable. Storing them in a container will prevent lens scratching or collecting dust. Exposure to or contact with chemical vapors or liquids may cause surface cracks or scratches so that you cannot see clearly through them, notify your supervisor and get a different set.

Cleaning instructions are explained on the packaging material. Typically one washes the goggles with mild soap and water, followed by rinsing with clear water. Air-dry and store properly.

Like all safety devices, eye protection is there for you and your eyes. Be smart and use eye protection at all times when on the job. What have you got to lose? Your sight?